

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A plastic substrate for use in optical instruments, the plastic substrate comprising:

a composite substrate in which fibers are embedded in a resin matrix, the fibers being arranged to extend in two nearly orthogonal directions within a plane of the composite substrate; wherein

the composite substrate substantially transmits visible radiation, ~~has an in-plane retardation of substantially zero,~~ and is arranged as a quarter-wave plate.

Claims 2-6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (previously presented): The plastic substrate of claim 1, wherein the fibers are embedded in the resin matrix as a bundle of fibers, a woven fabric or a nonwoven fabric.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The plastic substrate of claim 1, further comprising a protective coating on at least one principal surface of the composite substrate.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A liquid crystal display device comprising the plastic substrate of claim 1 and a liquid crystal layer.

Claim 10 (original): The liquid crystal display device of claim 9, further comprising a polarizer, which is arranged such that the absorption axis of the polarizer is either substantially

Application No. 10/538,118

November 13, 2009

Reply to the Office Action dated July 24, 2009

Page 3 of 7

parallel or substantially perpendicular to the at least one predetermined direction in which the fibers are arranged.